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PRESS RELEASE

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COMMON MARKET LOWERS TARIFF ON U.S. ORANGE EXPORTS

WASHINGTON, D.C., July 27 -- The European Common Market today reduced tariffs from 15 to 8 per cent on American oranges exported to the Community.

Originally, the Community had offered to cut the tariff on oranges, but only as part of a package which asked concessions from the United States on chicken and lard exports.

The Community proposals were presented to the United States in Brussels June 9 and 10 during talks between Deputy Undersecretary of State Nathaniel Samuels and European Community Commission member Ralf Dahrendorf. Since that time, the United States has had the Community proposals under review.

The Council of Ministers decided early Tuesday morning to authorize the unilateral tariff reduction on oranges despite the absence of a U.S. reaction to other elements of the package. The concession was made in response to complaints by American fruit exporters they were being discriminated against by EC preferential arrangements with orange producers in Morocco, Tunisia, Israel, Spain and Turkey.

The drop in tariffs will be authorized for a year, with continuation of the arrangement contingent on an agreement being reached between the EC and the United States on the other elements of the package.

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As a result of the Council action, American oranges will enter the Community at a reduced tariff from June 1 to September 30 -- the period when 80 per cent of the U.S. crop is exported and which in the past has brought more than \$7 million annually in revenue.

Other parts of the original package still under discussion between the EC and the United States are:

-- reduction of EC subsidies on chicken exports east of the Persian Gulf, the Pacific area, and American continents in return for reciprocal U.S. action in Switzerland and Greece

-- mutual reduction of subsidies on lard shipments to Great Britain.

The Community also has agreed to sit down and discuss any documented complaints by the U.S. tobacco industry regarding inequitable treatment of its products in Western Europe.

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